

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF FEBRUARY 11 TO THE PALEOBOTANICAL MUSEUM OF THE
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Fourteen members and friends of the club assembled at 1.30 p.m., for a short classroom introduction to the subject of the fossil plants of New York and New Jersey. The general geologic setting of the Triassic, Cretaceous, and Tertiary deposits of the region was presented and the problems of identification of fossil plants were discussed.

The party thereafter was conducted through the paleobotanical hall of the museum and was shown representative specimens of many of the plants which formerly inhabited the Atlantic seaboard. Special emphasis was placed on those families and genera which reached their climax of abundance, diversification, and distribution many millions of years ago and which today survive only as relicts of their glorious past. Among the notable examples seen and discussed were: the Cycadaceae and Araucariaceae of both the Triassic and Cretaceous, and *Sequoia*, *Ginkgo*, *Liriodendron*, *Sassafras*, and *Platanus* of the Cretaceous. It was further pointed out that certain of the Cretaceous species, notably of the conifers *Moriconia* and *Brachyphyllum*, were of types which have apparently left no survivors in our modern forests.

This observation led very naturally to a consideration and examination of other extinct groups, chiefly of Carboniferous age, which are on display in the museum. Among the groups examined and discussed were specimens of seed ferns, and of *Lepidodendron*, *Sigillaria*, and *Calamites*.

For their courtesy and cooperation, the club is indebted to the New York Botanical Garden, which was represented by Dr. H. N. Moldenke.

ERLING DORF

MOHONK SUGAR BUSH TRIP, MARCH 8-10

The sugar bush outing proved to be a unique experience for the score of people who attended. The grip of winter had not been broken in the Shawangunks, so winter sports were thoroughly enjoyed. There was fine skating on the lake and coasting and skiing on the hills. A hard crust on top of sixteen inches of snow made walking easy and pleasant.

Saturday afternoon we started out by sleighs to the accompaniment of jingling bells. It was a merry sight. From the end of the road it was only a short walk to the sugar bush which was being operated by a group of Mohonk School boys as their spring project. Due to the late winter the season had just begun, but the temperature was high enough for the sap to be running and the "first run" was boiling in the great black kettle so we were able to experience the sights, sounds and smells that give such fascination to maple syrup making in the old-fashioned way.

From the sugar bush we walked and slid down through cedar dotted pastures. The sliding was in huge dishpans which had been brought along for the purpose. One's destination was unpredictable and the frequent upsets were highly amusing to the onlookers. Many animal tracks were noted—the skunk being most frequent. The prints of a very large buck were seen.

Supper was cooked by the leader at the old log cabin under the watchful eyes of many experts. Steaks, potatoes with onions and coffee disappeared in great quantities. The singing of old-time songs to the accompaniment of the accordion put us in the mood for the sleigh ride up the mountain. The stars were very brilliant and the northern lights put on a display for us, while nearby the kerosene lanterns cast weird shadows among the trees.

DANIEL SMILEY, JR.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

THE ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 9, 1940

The Torrey Botanical Club held its annual meeting and dinner on January 9, 1940, at the Men's Faculty Club at Columbia University.

One hundred and five members and friends were present.

The following were elected to membership: *Annual*: Mr. Sanford S. Tepfer, 1354 East 19th St., Brooklyn, New York (transfer from Associate); and Dr. Herschell Fox, 237 East 20th Street, New York, N. Y. *Associate*: Miss Grace G. Lyman, 197 Main St., Easthampton, Mass. (transfer from Annual); Mr. Spencer Scott Marsh, Midwood Terrace, Madison, N. J. (transfer from Annual); Mrs. Spencer Scott Marsh, Midwood Terrace, Madison, N. J.;